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THE

PROTESTATION OF THE NOBLEMEN, *BARRONS, GENTLE-*MEN, BORROWES, MINI-*STERS, AND COMMONS,*

Subscribers of the Confession of Faith and Covenant, lately renewed within the Kingdome of Scotland, made at the Mer-*cate Crosse of Edinburgh, the 4. of Iulij Im-mediatly after the reading of the procla-mation, dated 28. June* 1638.

Printed in the year of God, 1638.

At Edinburgh by George Anderson.

The Protestation of the Noblemen, *Barons, Gentlemen, Borrowes, Ministers, and Commons, &c.*

EE *Noblemen, Barons, Gentlemen, Burgesses, Ministers,* and *Commons*, That where as We the Kings Majesties true and loyall Subjects, Who have ever esteemed it Our greatest happinesse, to live under a religious and righteous King, and Our greatest glory, to testifie our best affections to our gratious Soveraigne, Have beene in His Majesties absence from this His native kingdome Heavily pressed for a long time past, And especially of late with diverse innovations, which both in themselves, and in the way wherein they have beene urged doe manifestly tend to the prejudice of the Kings honour, and of our religion, lawes and liberties, And by which wee were brought to such extremitie, that there was no way left betwixt the rocke of excommunication, and the high paine of rebellion on the one part, and the desperate danger of forsaking the way of true Religion, and the breach of our Covenant with God on the other, But to represent

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our cace, and present our Supplications to the Lords of Secret Counsell, That being equally pondered by Them, They might either bee answered by Themselves, or by their recommendation might ascend to His Majesties owne consideration. And therefore in all humble manner We did to this effect supplicat their L. We were most willing for the modest following of our supplications, to obey their direction in choosing Commissionars for the great number of supplicants, who flocked togidder from all the quarters of the kingdome, Were carefull to order our selves in all Christian and quyet carriage, and against the tediousnesse of many and long delayes did waite for a long time with verie great patience, till at last They were pleased to receave our Supplications Complaints and Billes: And conceaving them to conteine weightier matters then could by themselves bee determined, They did promise and undertake to represent and recommend the same, according to their more than ordinarie importance unto His Majesties royall consideration, and to report His Majesties answere.

While His Majesties good Subjects of all ranks throughout the whole kingdome had their mindes wakened, and their hearts filled with the expectation of a gratious and satisfactorie answere, worthie of His Majesties pious and equitable disposition, in the Moneth of February last, incontinent a rumour flieth through the countrey, and filleth all eares, That the Lords of His Majesties secret Counsell were commanded to make such a Proclamation concerning the service booke, booke of canons, and the peaceable meetings of His Majesties good Subjects in time coming, As Wee were perswaded to have beene procured by the secret working, and malignant

gnant misinformation of our adversaries, Seeking for their owne private ends, without respect to his Majesties honour, and welfare of this kirk and kingdome, To stop the course of our legall proceedings, and to escape their owne due censure: And therefore intending to make knowne to the Lords of secret Counsell what was noised concerning the Proclamation, How far the whole kingdome had beene by some sinistrous misinformation frustrat of their hopes, and their constant desire to have some course taken by their Lo. advise, How His Majestie being further informed, might deliver His good Subjects from so great grievances and feares, and establish a sure peace in this countrey for time to come. We found our selves tyed by order of Law to decline those against whom Wee had made our complaint, unlesse We would admit our parties to be our Judges: And incase our declinatour should not bee accepted, Wee behoved to protest that Wee might have immediat recourse to the King Himself, &c. THEREAFTER in the Moneth of March, finding that by the foresaid proclamation the innovations supplicated against were approven, Our lawfull proceedings condemned, Our most necessarie meetings prohibited, There being no other way left unto Us, Wee were necessitate to renew the nationall Covenant of this Church and Kingdome, Thereby to reconceale us to God, provoked to wrath against Us, by the breach of His Covenant within this Land, to cleare Our Soveraignes minde from all jealousies and suspitions arising from Our adversaries misinformation of our intentions and carriage, And so to make way for His acceptance of our humble supplications, and grant of their lawfull remedies, to guarde

this

this land in defence of religion, authoritie and libertie, against inward divisions, and externall violences, And that our actions might bee answerable to our holy profession, Wee afterward drew up an humble supplication, conteining our grievances, and desires of the ordinarie remedies thereof, to have beene delivered to the King himselfe, In the meane time Wee were directed by those who were intrusted by His Majestie, to attend His declaration heere in *Scotland*, which would free Us of all feares of innovations of religion, and prove satisfactorie. And least for want of true information of our just grievances and desires it should fall out otherwise, We expressed to them with the greatest modestie We could our desires in some few articles, and with great patience have attended His Majesties pleasure thereanent, And all this Moneth bygone being frequently conveened to heare the same delivered by his Majesties Commissionar, the right Noble and Potent Lord, *James* Marques of *Hamilton*, &c. Wee presented a new petition to his Grace, as his Majesties Commissionar, craving most humbly the indiction of a free Assemblie and Parliament, as the only remedies thereof. Like as finding an misinformation, or mistake of our Covenant with God, as if it had beene an unlawfull combination to bee the maine hinderance of obteining our desires, in a new supplication Wee have fully removed that impediment, renewed our desires of those supreme judicatories, to bee indicted with diligence, for setling of the Church and Kingdome: But being answered only with delayes after these nine Moneths attendance, and with this Proclamation that conteined his Majesties gratious declaration of his pious intentions, not to admit of any

innovations

innovations in Religion or Lawes, nor any ſtaine of popiſh ſuperſtition, But on the contrare, to be reſolved to maintaine the true Chriſtian Religion profeſſed in this kingdome, which Wee were ever ſo far from calling in queſtion, as in our ſupplications, complaints and billes We uſed the ſame, as one cauſe of our deſires, one ground of our confidence of a gratious anſwere, and argument of our adverſaries malignant miſinformation of ſo religious a King. And now moſt humblie with bended knees, and bowed hearts thanke our gratious Soveraigne for the ſame, Wiſhing and praying the Lord of heaven truely and fully to informe his Majeſtie, how far theſe bookes, judicatories, and all our other evils and grievances are full of idolatrous ſuperſtitions, and Popiſh errors, How deſtructive of the reformation of religion in this land, and of the lawes and liberties of this Church and Kingdome. And ſo directly contrare to this his Majeſties pious intention and declaration. Yet ſeeing that no Proclamation could ſufficiently remove the preſent evils, Nor ſettle our feares, nor ſecure us from the reentrie of any evill or innovation, which it ſeemed to diſcharge or prevent the like in time comming, nor ſatisfie our humble ſupplications, craving the preſent indiction of a free Aſſemblie and Parliament, As the only remedies of our evils, and meanes to prevent the like. AND ſeeing this Proclamation doeth not ſo much as make mention, or acknowledge any of Our Supplications, Complaints and Grievances, or any juſt cauſe thereof, Except under the name of great increaſe of diſorders, faults, and miſdemanours; But only Our feares of ſome future innovation of Religion or Lawes, Occaſioned only as is pretended by the introductio:

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of the Service booke, booke of Canons, and high Commission, which feares his Majestie hoped to have beene aboundantly and sufficiently satisfied by his two former Proclamations of the Nynth of December, and Nineteenth of Februar: And by this his present declaration, Except his Subjects be blindly under pretext of religion led unto disobedience. *Doth* misken, passe over, and so in effect deny all our supplications, billes, articles, and desires, Especially our complaints against the prelats our parties. *And* that *once for all*, In a fair and perswasive way, even after the resaite of our last supplication, Clearing us from the calumnie of unlawfull combination. DOETH not disallow, nor discharge any of the Innovations, and evills compleined upon, But only assureth that His Majestie will not presse their practise, But in such a faire and legall way, as shall satisfie his Subjects of his intention, which ioyned with the other clause, allowing and confirming the proclamation the Nineteenth of Februar, Evidenceth the libertie left to any Prelate or Persones to practise the same, And by all other faire wayes, To perswade others thereunto: And his Majesties resolution, to presse their practise in a faire and legall way: And also confirmeth the former declaration, That the Service booke is a ready meane To maintaine the true religion, already professed, and to beate out all superstition, and no wayes to be contrare to the lawes of this Kingdome, But to be compylled and approved for the universall use and edification of all his Maiesties Subiects. *Doeth* not abolish, but promiseth to rectifie the high Commission, with advise of his privie Counsell, Implying the Kings power With consent of the Counsell, To establish this or any

judicatorie

judicatorie within this Kingdome, without consent of the three estates conveened in Parliament, contrary to the fundamentall and expresse lawes thereof, and by consequent, with the like reason, to establish lawes and service bookes, without consent of the Assemblie and Parliament, Which is contrare to the maine ground of all our supplications, against the manner of that introduction. *Doeth* only promise to take unto His consideration in an Assemblie and Parliament, which shall be called at his best convenience, While as the evident and urgent necessitie, for setling the combustions, threatning the totall dissolution and desolation of this Church and State, Excuseth our uncessant and importune calling for these present remedies. *Doeth* insinuat the continuance and execution of any pretended lawes, for these innovations of worship, and corruptions of Church governement, and civill places of Church men, Which by our Covenant Wee have oblidged our selves to forbear, and the reestablishment of those evils in an Assemblie and Parliament, which he will call in his best convenience, To wit, for that and this other end of satisfying His Subjects judgements, anent the Service booke and booke of Canons. *Doeth* condemne all our former proceedings, even our supplicating, compleining, protesting, subscribing of our Covenant together, and our continuall meetings, As great disorders, increase of disorders, deserving justly a powerfull rather then a perswasive way, a running headlong into ruine, a perishing in our faults, a blinde disobedience under pretext of religion, and doth threaten and denounce, *Now once for all*, If we be not heartily satisfyed and give testimony of our obedience after this declaration, But continue, as by our former proceedings, to draw on our

own ruine, that albeit unwillingly he must make use of that power which God hath indued him with, for reclaming of so dissobedient people.

THerefore We, In our own name, and in name of all who will adhere to the Confession of Faith, and reformation of Religion within this land, are forced and compelled out of our bound duetie to God, our King, Native Countrey, our selves and our posteritie, (lest our silence should be prejudiciall to so important a cause, As concerns Gods glorie and worship, our Religion and salvation, The lawes and liberties of this Church and Kingdome, or derogatorie to our former supplications, complaints, protestations, articles, and proceedings, Or unanswerable to the solemne oath of our nationall Covenant with God,) To declare before God, and man, And to protest, *Primo*, That we do, and will constantly adhere according to our vocation and power to the said reformation, In doctrine, use of Sacraments and discipline; And that notwithstanding of any innovations introduced therein either of old, or of late. *Secundo*, We protest that we adhere to the grievances, supplications, and protestations given in at Assemblies and Parliaments, and to our lait supplications, complaints, protestations, and other lawfull proceedings against the same, and particularly against the service booke, and booke of Canons, As maine innovations of Religion and lawes, and full of Popish superstition, and so directly contrare to the Kings declaration, and against the high Commission, as a judicatorie established contrare to the Lawes and liberties of this church and kingdome, and destructive of other lawfull judicatories, which both in respect of the nature of it, and manner of introduction, without consent of the three estats

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of Parliament, cannot bee any wayes rectified, but absolutely discharged. *Tertio*, Wee protest that Wee adhere with Our hearts to our oath and subscription of the Confession of Faith, the solemne Covenant betweene God, this Church and kingdome, and the clauses particularly therein expressed, and generally conteined, and to our last articles for the peace of this Church and Kingdome, drawne out of it, and to all the matters therein conteined, and manner of remedie therein desired. *Quarto*, we protest, that this Proclamation or act of Counsell, or any other act or proclamation or declaration, or ratification thereof, By subscription or act, or letter, or any other manner of way whatsoever, or any precondemnation of our cause or carriage, before the same be lawfully heard and tryed in the supreme judicatories of this church and kingdome, the only proper judges to nationall causes and proceedings, or any certification or threatning therein denunced, shall no wayes bee prejudiciall to the confession of Faith, lawes and liberties of this Kingdome, nor to our supplications, complaints, protestations, articles, lawfull meetings, proceedings, persutes, mutuall defences, nor to our persons and estates, and shall no wayes bee disgracefull either in realitie or opinion, at home or abroad, to Us or any of Us: But on the contrare, that any act or letter, or subscription of the Counsell, carrying the approbation of the declaration, and condemnation of our proceedings, *indicta causa*, is, and ought to bee repute and esteemed unjust, illegall, and null, as here before God and man Wee offer to cleare, and to verifie both the justice of our cause and carriage, and the injustice of such acts against Us, in the face of the first generall Assemblie of the Church and Parliament of the Estates,

Estates, unto whom, with all solemnities requisite Wee do publictly appeale. *Quinto*, Wee protest, that seeing our former supplications, last articles, and our last desire and petition to His Majesties Commissionar, which petitioned for the present indiction of a free generall Assemblie and Parliament, According to the law and custome of all nations, and of this nation in the like cace, To heare the desires, ease the grievances, and settle the feares of the body of the Church and kingdome, are thus delayed, and in effect refused, To wit, *Once for all*, till His Majesties conveniencie for the ends conteined in this Proclamation, that We continue by thir presents to supplicat His Majestie againe and againe, for the granting of the same: And whatsoever trouble or inconvenience fall out in this land in the meane time, for want of these ordinarie remedies, and by the practise of any of these innovations and evils, contrare to our supplications, articles, and confession, it be nor imputed unto Us, who most humbly beg these lawfull remedies, But also, that it is, and shall bee lawfull unto Us, to defend and maintaine the religion, lawes, and liberties of this kingdome, the Kings Authoritie in defence thereof, and every one of Us one another in that cause, of maintaining the religion, and the Kings foresaid Authoritie, according to our power, vocation, and covenant, with our best counsell, bodies, lifes, meanes, and whole strength, against all persons whatsoever, and against all externall or internall invasions manassed in this proclamation. Like as that in the great exigence of the church, necessitating the use of this ordinarie and lawfull remedies, for setling the commotions thereof, it is, and shall be leasome unto Us to appoint, hold, and use the ordinarie meanes, our lawfull meetings

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and Assemblies of the Church, agreeable to the law of God, and practise of the primitive Church, the Acts of the generall Assemblies and Parliaments, and the example of our Worthie Reformers in the like case. *Sexto*, Wee protest, that our former Supplications, Complaints, Protestations, Confessions, meetings, proceedings, and mutuall defences, of every one another in *this Cause*, As they are, and were in themselves most necessare, and orderly meanes agreeable to the lawes, and practise of this Church and Kingdome, to be commended as reall duties of faithfull Christians, loyall Subjects, and sensible members of the bodie of the church and Kingdome, and no wise to be styled nor accounted great disorders, misdemanours, blinde disobedience under pretext of Religion, and running headlong into ruine, &c. So they proceeded only from conscience of our duety to God, our King, native countrey, and our posteritie, and doeth Tend to no other end, But to the preservation of the true reformed Religion, the Confession of faith, lawes, and liberties of this His Majesties most ancient Kingdome, and of his Majesties authoritie, in defence thereof and Satisfaction of our humble desires, conteined in our supplications, Complaints, and articles, Unto the which we adhere againe and againe; As we would eschew the curse of the Almightie God, following the breach of his Covenant: And yet we do certainely expect according to the Kings Majestie his accustomed goodnesse, and justice, that his sacred Majestie after a true information of the justice of our cause and carriage, Will presently indict these ordinary remedies of a free Assemblie and Parlament to our just supplications, complaints, and articles, which may be expected, and useth to be graunted from so just

and gratious a King, towards most loyall and duetifull Subjects, calling for redresse of so pressing grievances, And praying heartily that his Majestie may long and prosperiously reigne over Us.

WHereupon a Noble Earle, *John* Earle of *Cassles*, &c. In name of the Noble men, Master *Alexander Gibson*, younger, of *Durie*, in name of the Barons, *James Fletcher*, Proveſt of *Dundie*, In name of the Borrowes, Master *John Ker* Minister at *Salt-Prestoun*, In name of the Ministers, and Master *Archbald Jhonston*, Reader heereof, In name of all who adheres to the Confession of Faith and Covenant, lately renewed within this Kingdome, Tooke instruments in the hands of three Noters present, at the said mercat crosse of *Edinburgh*, being invironed with great Numbers of the forsaid Noblemen, Barons, Gentlemen, Borrowes, Ministers and Commons, Before many Hundreth witnesses, and craved the extract thereof: And in taken of their duetifull respect to his Majestie, confidence of the equitie of their cause, and innocencie of their cariage, and hope of his Majesties gratious acceptance, They offred in all humilitie with submisse reverence a copie thereof to the Herauld.

FINIS.

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